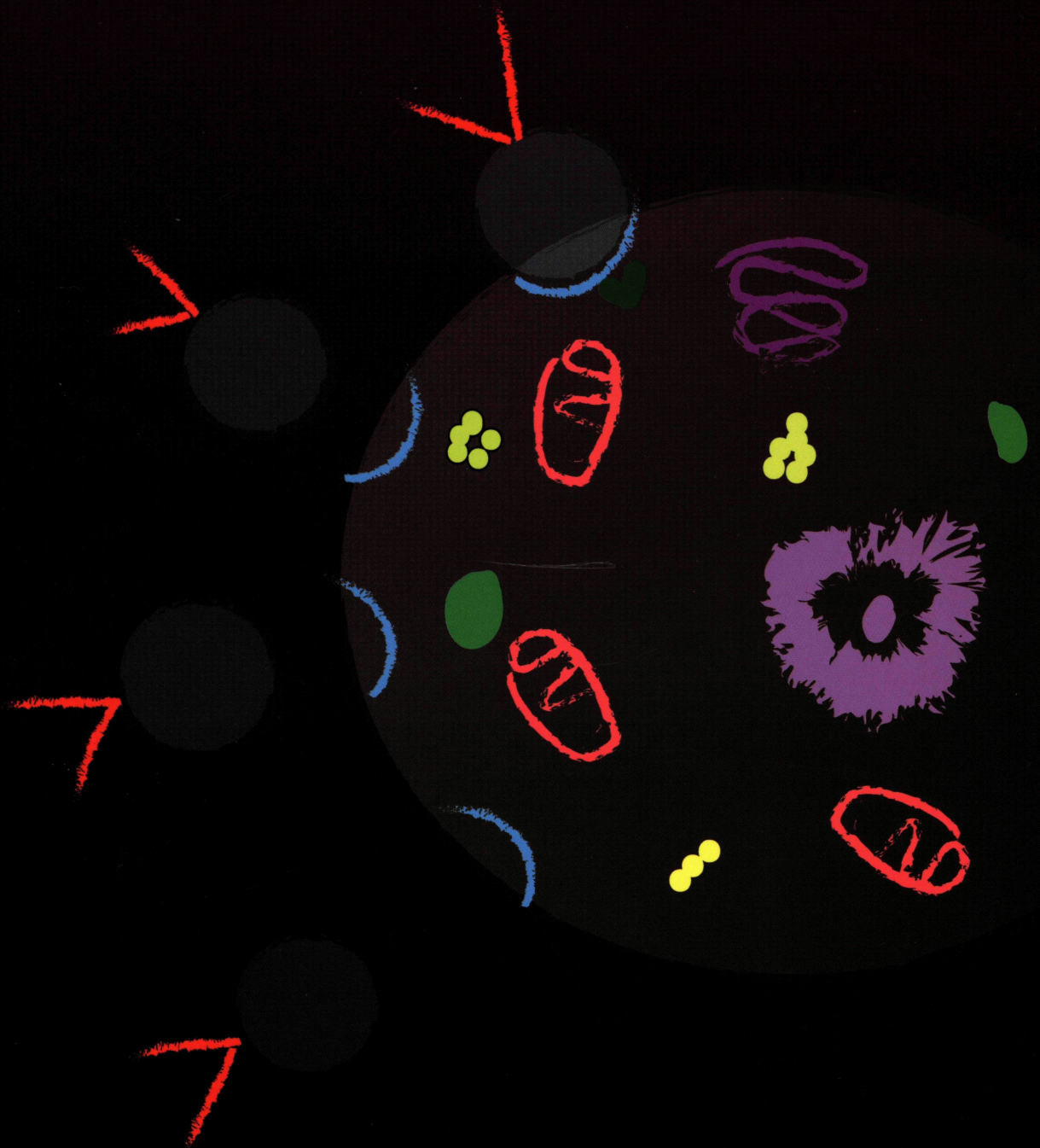


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Case Report

Blending The Appearance Of All-Ceramic Crowns In Fluorosis Condition With Direct Chair-Side Technique.

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Abstract

Dental fluorosis incidence had been reported to be affecting children widely, especially in water-fluoridated area. As these children grow into young adults, perceived aesthetic problems arise mainly due to their concern with generalized mottled and stained teeth appearance. Fixed prosthodontics treatment involving single anterior tooth in patients with generalized fluorosis condition had been found challenging due to aesthetic restorability to blend with fluorosis condition. **Clinical considerations:** A simplified procedural direct chair-side technique of mimicking fluorosis condition onto anterior all-ceramic crowns are discussed in this paper. The mimicked fluorosis is reversible and has the opportunity to be adjusted according to the patient's fluorosis condition thus hindering the need to redo the crown in the future. **Conclusions:** The appearance of anterior all-ceramic crowns with direct chair-side staining technique provided blended and harmonized well with the dental fluorosis condition in both patients thus, giving natural looking smile.

Keywords: Dental fluorosis, all-ceramic crown, chair-side resin staining.

Introduction

Dental fluorosis is a developmental disturbance of dental enamel, caused by successive exposures to high concentrations of fluoride during tooth development, leading to enamel with lower mineral content and increased porosity¹⁻². Compromised aesthetics in permanent dentition are the greatest concern in dental fluorosis condition³.

Once these affected children grow into young adults, different types of cosmetic dental treatment can be provided for dental fluorosis condition includes bleaching, enamel abrasion, direct

restorations and fixed prosthesis restorations⁴⁻⁶.

This case report highlights a simplified procedural technique of blending and mimicking the dental fluorosis condition of patients onto a single anterior all-ceramic crown restoration, to provide an aesthetically balanced and harmonized dental appearance. The cases were done with the patients' request to omit any cosmetic dental treatment for the fluorosis condition due to time and financial constraint.

Case Report

Case 1

An 18-year-old male was referred to Centre of Restorative Dentistry Studies for management of recurrent failure of his upper left central incisor (21) composite resin restoration. He was involved in a motor vehicle accident 6 months

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ago and sustained uncomplicated fracture of 21. Direct composite resin restoration was provided, however the direct restoration had poor aesthetical value and did not blend with the patient's generalized fluorosis condition (Fig 1A).

Case 2

A 22-year-old male was referred to the Centre of Restorative Dentistry Studies for further restorative management of his unsightly endodontically treated upper left central incisor (21) (Fig. 1B). Radiographical investigation found a poorly done endodontics treatment with insufficient length of post on the tooth, which denotes the need for endodontics re-treatment.

Case Management

Treatment planning.

Both patients were advised and given the available treatment modalities by the prosthodontist for restoring the complaint teeth. They agreed to the option of bonded all-ceramic crowns. Both patients also have significant generalized dental fluorosis conditions, therefore various treatment options was given to reduce the fluorosis before starting the fixed prosthesis treatment. However, due to time constraint and fi-

nancial, both patient refused any treatment for their fluorosis condition.

Tooth preparations for all-ceramic crowns.

Shade selection was taken under natural light using the shade guide (VITA Toothguide 3D-Master, California USA). A 1.0mm labial and palatal reduction and 1.5mm incisal reduction was made with supra-gingival shoulder margin all around (Fig 2A & 2B). A provisional crown was fabricated using bis-acryl material (Protemp™ 4 Temporisatation Material, 3M ESPE USA) to provide provisional optimum aesthetical and functional values.

Master impression for both tooth preparations were taken using polyvinyl siloxane (PVS) impression material with heavy and light-body one-step wash technique (Aquasil Ultra LV and Heavy Smart Wetting® Regular Set Impression Material, Dentsply USA).

Fabrication of the all-ceramic crown.

Lithium disilicate ceramic (IPS e.max Press, Ivoclar Vivadent, Liechtenstein Switzerland) was the material of choice for the fabrication of the bonded all-ceramic crowns for both patients. Written instructions and photographs were sent to the laboratory together with the

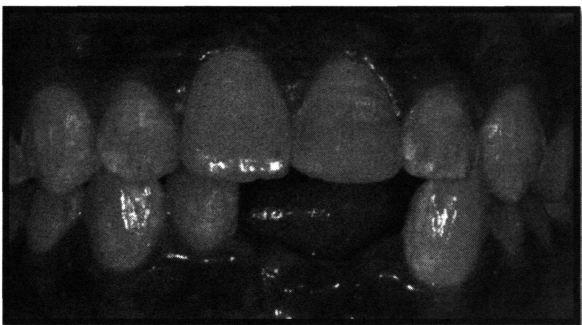


Figure:1A- Pre-operative condition of tooth 21 (Case 1)



Figure: 1B- Pre-operative condition of tooth 21 (Case 2)

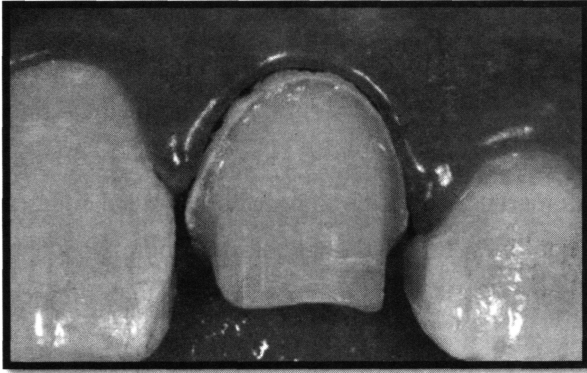


Figure: 2A- Tooth preparation for bonded all-ceramic crown on 21 (Case 1)

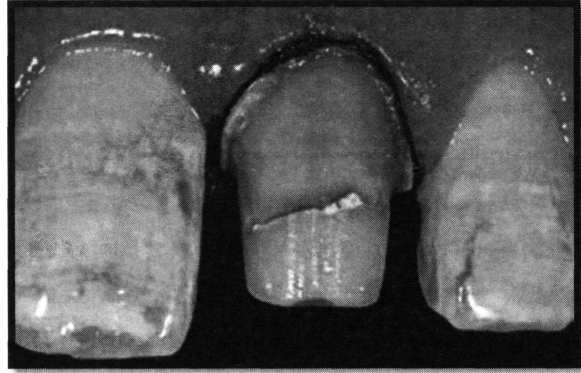


Figure: 2B- Tooth preparation for bonded all-ceramic crown on 21 with composite core and fiber post (Case 2)

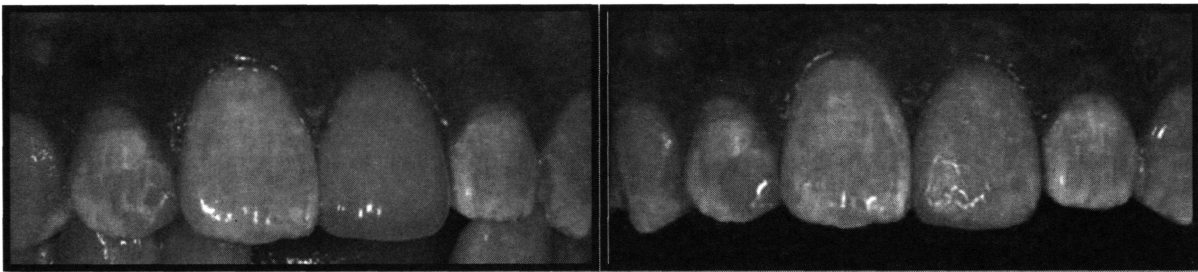


Figure: 3A- Crown 21 before and after characteristics staining (Case 1)

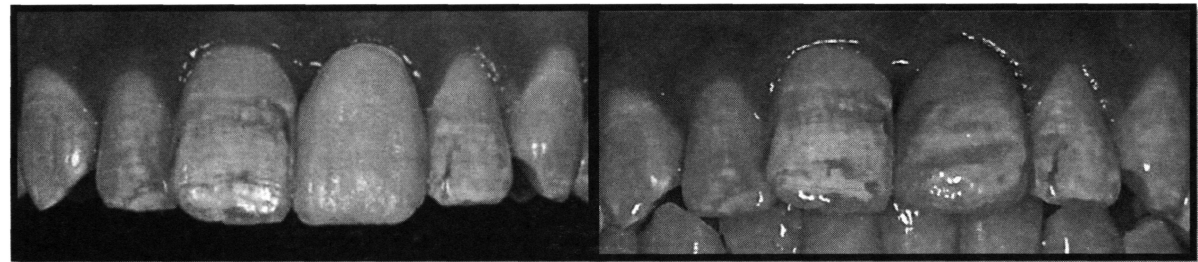


Figure: 3B- Crown 21 before and after characteristics staining (Case 2)

master impressions, face bow transfers and bite registrations. The unique dental fluorosis characteristics were not done in the laboratory and were planned clinically. Thus the finishing glaze of the crowns did not include the labial surface to allow further characteristics to be done chair-side.

Direct chair-side staining of all-ceramic crowns.

The fabricated crowns were seated intra-orally and the contacts and occlusion with adjacent and opposing teeth were checked. Once satisfied, the crowns were removed from the tooth preparations. Direct staining methods started with the extra-oral application of a porcelain-etching agent (hydrofluoric acid 7-9%) on the labial surface of the crown for 10 to 15 seconds.

The acid was then washed thoroughly for 60 seconds and dried completely. Next, silane was then applied and left to dry. Place the crowns intra-orally and the fluorosis condition of the adjacent teeth was then mimicked and matched on the all-ceramic crowns by using a light-cured resin color modifier and opaquing kit (Kolor+Plus, Kerr). The resin colour modifiers were applied in very thin layers; bit-by-bit to create the fluorosis characteristics using a fine tip brush. Once the characteristics coloring completed, the composite resin staining material was light cured for 15 seconds. Then the crowns were removed from the intraoral environment and a thin layer of translucent composite resin (acts as a protective layer) was placed covering the whole labial surface of the characterized crowns. The protective layer is light-cured for 30 seconds and the labial surfaces were then polished until smooth and shiny.

Fitting procedure

Cementations of the crowns were done with composite resin luting cement (Calibra® Esthetic Resin Cement, Dentsply) in a strictly practiced moisture control. Patients were happy and satisfied with the prosthesis provided to them (Fig 3A & 3B).

Discussion

Bonding silica-based dental ceramic (lithium-disilicate) to composite resin is common in cementations procedure and repairing chipped porcelain in fixed prostheses. In this case reports, the addition of direct staining with resin colorant to treated surface ceramics also imply the same concept of bonding to silica-based dental ceramics.

There are few factors that can increase the bonding durability, such as the silanization pro-

cess and surface treatment. Bonding strength resulted from silanization to a silica based dental ceramic is known to be high, predictable and excellent around 25-35 Mpa⁷⁻⁸. Silane has been a medium of choice to provide chemical interaction between the dental ceramic and resin luting cement. Studies also concluded that surface treatment with hydrofluoric acid etching does produce greater bond strength of silica-based dental ceramic to resin⁹⁻¹⁰.

In both case studies discussed, decision to go for direct staining chair-side procedure was due to the severe fluorosis condition of both patients. Although both patients has been advised on different treatment to reduce the fluorosis condition before fixed prostheses, they refused due to time and financial constraint. However, they both expressed the desire to undergo more comprehensive whitening regime in the future. This direct chair-side technique gave us the opportunity to adjust accordingly the dental fluorosis features on the crowns to blend with the rest of the dentition in the future. This will eliminate the need to fabricate new crown once the fluorosis condition has changed.

Conclusion

The restorations provided to these two patients comprise the combination of both dental ceramic and composite resin materials, thus making the prognosis for aesthetical value remains favourable with a prolonged longevity.

Acknowledgement

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Letter To Editor

Adopting law school pedagogy into teaching and learning of dentistry- my Melbourne experience

Dear Editor,

In 2014, I was fortunate to be accepted into the fully-funded Specialist Certificate in Teaching and Melbourne Teaching Certificate programs at Melbourne Graduate School of Education, ranked world's second-best institution in the field of educational study (QS Top Universities, 2014). In the midst of completing my PhD study at the University of Melbourne, I was determined at taking advantage of the opportunities and gaining as much experience as possible that the University could offer in an endeavor to improve the quality of dental education and practice back home. Meeting other current and future leaders in education, I was overwhelmed by the unique differences portrayed in relation to our academic, career and cultural backgrounds, as well as the enthusiasm expressed by each of the participants. This further inspired me to be adamant in adopting such diversity into establishing a symbiotic relationship that would lead to the advancement of higher education.

One of the tasks during these programs was to observe teaching and learning activities of a colleague from a different faculty, which in my case was law. Coming in for this activity with misconceptions about the teaching of law, I then became stimulated with the amount of discussion, debate and brainstorming in the class-

room, brought about by the 'blended learning approach' in teaching. In the teaching of law, the blended learning approach, which integrates face-to-face teaching, independent studying and online learning experience, prepares students to be actively engaged in classroom discussion and brain-storming in discussing examples of legal cases and other learning issues (Hess, 2013). Rather than merely learning the theory or concept outlined in the legal documents, Act or constitution, such learning techniques have been proven effective in preparing graduates with employability skills fundamental to the professional practice of law, including oral and written communication skills, teamwork and time management (Lane, 2016).

From this observational experience, I came to a conclusion that the teaching of dentistry should also adopt an approach such as that of the teaching of law, which emphasized on integrating the fundamentals of scientific theory and professional practice. Such a learning approach is essential, as graduates of Malaysian dental school were reported to be incompetent in applying theoretical knowledge into providing holistic patient care (Yusof, et al., 2010). An effective learning strategy that seeks to focus on comprehensive patient management through evidence-based approach is therefore important in order to prepare students for the future challenges of clinical practice. A learning

environment that stimulates students' active participation in teaching and learning is also integral to developing strong interpersonal skills and professional demeanour, which is crucial for one's future career progression.

Similar to the teaching of law, blended learning approach has been introduced and implemented in dental schools around the world, including Malaysia (Bhardwaj, et al., 2015, Maresca, et al., 2014, Reissmann, et al., 2015). The blended learning approach has been found effective in improving students' clinical skills, understanding and interest in the subject matter (Maresca, et al., 2014, Reissmann, et al., 2015). Self-directed learning approach, adopted in blended learning, also encourages students to become self-sufficient individuals in undertaking independent life-long learning (Faraone, et al., 2013). In addition to blended learning, I hereby opine that problem-based-learning (PBL) activities should be implemented in integration with the former, and in a larger scale, in order to provide students with opportunities in engaging and applying the theories they learn into managing patients in a clinical setting (Barman, et al., 2006). The current extent of PBL incorporated into the undergraduate dental curriculum in Malaysia should be enhanced, with more sessions conducted to discuss a variety of clinical cases. Case scenarios that include aspects relating to systemic health, socio-economic status, emotional and psychological wellbeing, environmental factors including cultural and social norms, as well as other issues that may affect treatment planning and maintenance of health need to be incorporated in an attempt to prepare students for providing care in a holistic manner. Implementation of blended-learning activities, which re-

duces the content of learning to be carried out face-to-face, allow for more opportunities for PBL to be conducted.

Besides increasing the amount of student' engagement with PBL, the implementation of PBL should also be assessed, to ensure its' quality and effectiveness. Students' diversity, such as that related to language proficiency, cultural values or technology literacy, need to be assessed and addressed, as some Asian students reported facing difficulty in adapting to this learning method (Sanders and Lushington, 2002). Dental educators, including academic advisors and mentors, need to play a proactive role in identifying students who experience issues in adapting to PBL activities, and develop strategies to remedy issues faced by these individuals. A one-stop academic center that caters for guiding students who experience learning difficulty, such as that available at the University of Melbourne, would be beneficial in supporting students' diversity in any area of learning.

Another suggestion for an improved students' learning experience, adopted in other institutions, is to establish a 'think tank' or a focus group, consisting of student representatives from each academic year to address any pedagogical issues. Such initiative is relevant in Asian countries, where the students are culturally unprepared to be critical and outspoken, especially during teaching and learning (Khoo, 2003). Lack of student-faculty engagement may also occur as a result of superiority standard that exists within the dental fraternity, in which specialists are held in high regard and may be perceived as being too intimidating to be approached (Rowland, et al., 2010). Having

a 'think tank' group and faculty student advocate may bridge this gap as representatives from both sides of the party collaborate to improve the quality of teaching and learning (Pritchard, et al., 2009).

Overall, the programs have offered me an interesting experience and opportunity to learn from peers across the University, dedicated to development of teaching and learning. I learnt the different educational challenges encountered by other disciplines and the various teaching strategies adopted. Such an experience provided me with a valuable insight into enhancing my own teaching performance, drawn by integrating the various perspectives of academicians of other fields.

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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An example is given here: 'This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [AA123456 to C.S., BB765432 to M.H.]; and the Alcohol & Education Research Council [hfygr667789].'

Evaluation of manuscripts

Submitted manuscripts are subject to peer review and are expected to meet standards of academic excellence. Peer-reviewers identities will remain anonymous to the authors. The Editor-in-Chief's decision regarding publication is based on the recommendation of the reports of reviewers, which will, at the Editors' discretion, be transmitted to the authors.

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- Page numbers at the bottom of each page; centered or right-justified
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Organization of Manuscript

A desirable plan for the organization of a **Regular Paper** is as follows: **(1) TITLE (2) ABSTRACT, (3) INTRODUCTION with no heading, (4) MATERIALS AND METHODS (5) RESULTS (6) DISCUSSION (7) REFERENCES**.

1. Title Page

Provide a title page, containing the following items.

- The type of paper
- Title. The title should be informative and as short as is consistent with clarity. The title should not include chemical formulae or arbitrary abbreviations, but chemical symbols may be used to indicate the structures of isotopically labeled compounds. The numbering of parts in a series of papers is not permitted, but titles and subtitles may be used if necessary.
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- Running title. Provide a short running title of less than 50 strokes. It should be as informative as possible.
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Customary abbreviations in wide use need not be defined in text (e.g., RNA, ATP). Define other abbreviations the first time that they are used. Refer to the Journal of Biological Chemistry for recommended abbreviations for biological compounds, Chemical Abstracts for names of chemical compounds, Conn's Biological Stains (10th Edition, RW Horobin and JA Kiernan (eds.), BIOS Scientific Publishers) for nomenclature, and the CSE Style Manual (2006, 7th ed., Council of Science Editors) for scientific abbreviations. Use SI units only. The Journal does not print the degree symbol before temperature symbols. All temperatures are printed as follows: 80C, 37.4F, 276K.

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- The Abstract should **not exceeding 250 words**. Abstract text should be divided into the following sections: **Objectives** (a brief statement of the purpose of the investigation along with the the working hypothesis)- **Materials and Methods** (A brief description of the materials and experimental method used); **Results** (state the results simply and clearly so that significant facts can be readily identified, where appropriate, statistics should be clearly stated); **Conclusions** (a brief summary of the essential results you believe were demonstrated by the experimental data and the impact of the results). Abstract should be in a form comprehensible to any scientist and suitable for publication without the full article text.

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- ii) **Key words.** Provide 3-5 key words identifying the nature of the subject matter alphabetically in the last part of the summary.

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The main part of an article should start with a brief Introduction, which outlines the historical or logical origins of the study and clearly states the aim of the study and/or hypothesis to be tested, without repeating the abstract or summarizing the results. Avoid giving an extensive review of the literature.

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For guidelines on how to report statistical results, see Bailar, JC, Mosteller, F (1988) Guidelines for statistical reporting in articles for medical journals. *Ann Intern Med*, 108:266-273; Curran-Everitt, D, Benos DJ, (2004) Guidelines for reporting statistics in journals published by the American Physiological Society. *J Neurophysiol*, 92:669-671; Lang, TA, Secic, M (2006) How to report statistics in medicine: annotated guidelines for authors, editors and reviewers, 2nd edition, Philadelphia, PA, ACP Press; Sarter M, Fritschy JM (2008) *Eur J Neurosci* 28:2363-2364. compact presentation.

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The observations should be presented with minimal reference to earlier literature or to possible interpretations. The main statistical results should be reported in the Results section. The description of the statistical results should include the proper statistical term (such as the F statistic) as well as the degrees of freedom and the

P value. The description of statistical results in the figure legends should be limited to important post hoc comparisons.

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The discussion section presents the interpretation of the findings, this is the only proper section for subjective comments. The discussion section should be as concise as possible and should include a brief statement of the principal findings while avoiding repetition of statements provided in the Abstract or the Results section.

A discussion of the validity of the observations, a discussion of the findings in light of other published work dealing with the same or closely related subjects, and a statement of the possible significance of the work. Extensive discussion of the literature is discouraged.

7. References

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(2) **For a chapter in an edited book:**

12. Messing J (1983) New M13 vectors for cloning in **Methods in Enzymology** (Wu, R., Grossman, L., and Moldave, K., eds.) Vol. 101, pp. 20–51, Academic Press, New York

(3) **For a book by one or more authors:**

15. Sambrook J, Fritsch EF, and Maniatis T (1989) **Molecular Cloning. A Laboratory Manual** pp. 1339–1341, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY

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Abbreviations should be kept to an absolute minimum. Abbreviations save relatively little space but greatly diminish the readability of a manuscript. In general, abbreviations should not appear in the Abstract, and sentences that contain more than one abbreviation merit careful review. The word must always be written out in full when first used and the proposed abbreviation given in parentheses. A list of all abbreviations used in the text and their meanings must be provided (in alphabetic order).

10. Acknowledgements

A short statement about grant and other financial support should be given, along with a list of contributions from collaborators who are not co-authors (it is implicit that they agree with this mention), and a declaration of competing interests. See above under Editorial Policies for additional items to be addressed in the Acknowledgements.

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